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**Sustainable development****Follow-up to and implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States****Report of the Secretary-General***Summary*

Pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 69/15 and 70/202, the present report addresses progress made in the implementation of the Samoa Pathway and the commitments and partnerships agreed to at the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States. The report is the second annual report since the adoption of the Samoa Pathway. It provides examples of activities, including national implementation, development assistance and partnerships. It reflects on the need for implementation approaches that take advantage of the momentum and resources generated by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, while maintaining the specific focus of the Samoa Pathway on small island developing States. The present report should be read in conjunction with other reports of the Secretary-General, in particular on the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and on the sustainable development of the Caribbean Sea for present and future generations.

\* A/71/150.



## I. Introduction

1. At the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 1992, Member States first acknowledged that small island developing States were a special case with respect to both the environment and development, and highlighted their vulnerabilities, including those stemming from climate change and sea-level rise. At the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, held in Bridgetown, Barbados, in 1994, the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (Barbados Programme of Action) was adopted, establishing a process within the Rio work stream that continued through the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, held in Port Louis, Mauritius, in 2005, and the adoption of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (Mauritius Strategy) and the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, held in Apia, Samoa, in 2014, and the adoption of the Samoa Pathway. Small island developing States were simultaneously engaged in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals.
2. Today's holistic development agenda is driven by a different mindset, crystallized in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, which build on the legacy of the Millennium Development Goals. The 2030 Agenda is a universal agenda, applicable to developed and developing countries alike.
3. In many ways the Samoa Pathway, adopted one year before the 2030 Agenda, reflects the same holistic approach. Other agreements crucial to small island developing States were also reached in the landmark year of 2015, including the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development and the Paris Agreement on climate change, and they too reflect the integrated character of the 2030 Agenda.
4. Based on the input received for the present report, as well as statements made in intergovernmental forums and research conducted through expert meetings, it is evident that the small island developing States themselves, Member State partners, the United Nations system, other regional and international organizations and other stakeholders, including the private sector and civil society, are currently pursuing the complementary agendas of the Samoa Pathway and the Sustainable Development Goals. The year 2016 marks the second year of implementation of the Samoa Pathway and the first year of implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, and ambitious, integrated and coherent action in these early days is clearly critical for long-term success.
5. The United Nations system has pledged to mainstream the pursuit of the 2030 Agenda into all of its activities. The United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, representing the leadership of all United Nations system entities, has adopted common principles for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, stressing that in an enhanced culture of collaboration, each entity will contribute according to its strengths across the 17 indivisible goals in a transparent and accountable way to deliver shared United Nations results in support of Member

States at global, regional and country levels.<sup>1</sup> Other regional and international organizations are also working to align their operations to implement the 2030 Agenda, including organizations of small island developing States, such as the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) secretariat and the Council of Regional Organizations in the Pacific (CROP).

6. Member States are also working to integrate the 2030 Agenda into their national development plans and strategies. The 2016 session of the high-level political forum on sustainable development featured voluntary national reviews from 22 developed and developing countries, including one small island developing State, namely, Samoa, which demonstrated that sustainable development was being driven in an integrated manner, with leadership from the office of the Head of State or Government and coordination through a joint effort among several ministries.

7. Notably, in the voluntary national review of Samoa, the delegation of Samoa spoke of implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Samoa Pathway in the same breath, stating clearly that progress in one would mean progress in the other, but also that the small island developing States-specific agenda of the Samoa Pathway would ultimately shape the approaches of Samoa. Similarly, in interventions throughout the session of the high-level political forum, other small island developing States and the Chair of the Alliance of Small Island States reiterated the importance of pursuing the 2030 Agenda in tandem with the Samoa Pathway. Palau, as an example, showed how its approach to the 2030 Agenda was anchored in the establishment of a marine protected area in the exclusive economic zone, reflecting the strong oceans focus of the Samoa Pathway.

8. In spite of these calls and examples, however, some representatives of small island developing States at the high-level political forum and meetings relating to small island developing States indicated that, while the Sustainable Development Goals were receiving significant attention and strategic thought in their countries, there was a risk that the Samoa Pathway would fade from the capital-based planning process unless urgent attention was paid to the complementary, integrated implementation of the Samoa Pathway and the 2030 Agenda. A representative of Jamaica, for example, outlined the domestic institutional challenges arising from integrating the two outcome documents.

9. The United Nations system and other partners need to formulate an approach to the Samoa Pathway that takes advantage of the strength and momentum of the Sustainable Development Goals process, while maintaining the priorities and perspectives specific to small island developing States contained in the Samoa Pathway. Lessons can be drawn from regional organizations like the CARICOM secretariat and the CROP organizations, which are laying the groundwork for joint implementation. The Sustainable Development Working Group of the CROP organizations, including the secretariat of the Pacific Islands Forum and the secretariat of the Pacific Community, for instance, has prepared a road map for the integrated implementation and monitoring of and reporting on the Sustainable Development Goals, the Samoa Pathway and their own "Framework for Pacific Regionalism". (Sustainable Development Goal 17). Similarly, the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction is developing a monitoring mechanism that

<sup>1</sup> See <https://undg.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/Item-1-CEB-Common-Principles-for-the-Implementation-of-the-2030-Agenda.pdf>.

integrates the Sendai Framework, the Samoa Pathway and the Sustainable Development Goals (Sustainable Development Goals 11, 13 and 17).

10. The United Nations system is adapting in response to Member State demands. At its second session, in 2016, the United Nations Environment Assembly adopted resolution 2/4 on the role, functions and modalities for United Nations Environment Programme implementation of the Samoa Pathway as a means of facilitating achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. The resolution mandates the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to undertake efforts that will advance both Samoa Pathway objectives and the Sustainable Development Goals. In its resolution 70/202, the General Assembly requested the Joint Inspection Unit to undertake a comprehensive review of United Nations system support to small island developing States in order to ensure a coherent and coordinated approach by the United Nations system to further improve and strengthen its overall effectiveness and delivery with respect to small island developing States. The final review will be completed at the end of 2016; a preview of the comprehensive review will be issued as an addendum to the present report. Also in resolution 70/202, the Assembly urged that effective linkages be made between the follow-up and review arrangements for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and those of all relevant United Nations conferences and processes, including the Samoa Pathway, in line with the 2030 Agenda.

11. The present report provides an overview of activities undertaken in the past year to advance implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action, the Mauritius Strategy and the Samoa Pathway. Relevant bodies of the United Nations system, including the regional commissions, regional intergovernmental organizations of small island developing States, and Member States were consulted in the course of its preparation.<sup>2</sup>

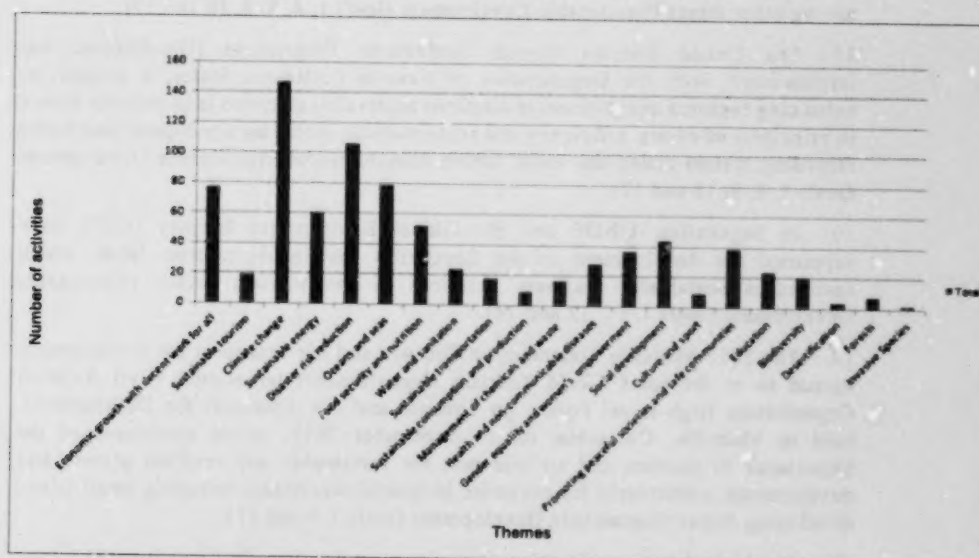
## II. Implementation of the Samoa Pathway

12. In the preparation of the present report, entities of the United Nations system and other organizations, as well as small island developing States and partner Member States, submitted descriptions of the activities they undertook in the past

<sup>2</sup> Input was received from the Commonwealth Secretariat, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Global Environment Facility, the International Atomic Energy Agency, the International Civil Aviation Organization, the International Labour Organization, the International Organization for Migration, the International Renewable Energy Agency, the International Trade Centre, the International Telecommunication Union, the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, the World Tourism Organization, the World Bank, the United Nations Population Fund, the Governments of Australia, Austria, Canada, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Germany, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Mexico, Portugal, the Russian Federation, Samoa, Singapore, Sweden and the United States of America, and the European Union.

year to advance implementation of the Samoa Pathway, the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy). As shown in the figure below, the highest number of activities was devoted to the areas of climate change, disaster risk reduction and oceans — some of the “traditional” sustainable development priorities for small island developing States articulated at the Rio Conference.<sup>3</sup> However, significant attention is also being paid to social and economic priorities of small island developing States, in particular economic growth. This reflects the integrated approach to sustainable development advanced in the Samoa Pathway and the 2030 Agenda — an approach with poverty eradication at its core.

**Number of activities reported to the United Nations-Secretariat, categorized by Samoa Pathway themes**



13. The present report includes a sampling of the activities and initiatives reported by United Nations system and other organizations as well as small island developing States and partner Member States, to illustrate the kinds of efforts undertaken in the past year, but it is not exhaustive. The activities are arranged according to the themes of the Samoa Pathway, with the relevant Sustainable Development Goals indicated in parentheses at the end of each activity to serve as a reminder of the close links between the Samoa Pathway and the 2030 Agenda.

<sup>3</sup> This quantitative analysis represents a simple counting of the activities reported by each organization, according to the relevant substantive themes for each activity. Where an activity was relevant to more than one theme, it was counted under both themes. Activities that were not explicitly covered by the SAMOA Pathway, such as urbanization and human settlements, land rights and housing, were counted under the most relevant themes, including economic growth with decent work for all, social development, sustainable transportation and water and sanitation. Anti-corruption issues were counted under promoting peaceful societies and safe communities.

**Sustained and sustainable, inclusive and equitable economic growth with decent work for all: development models in small island developing States for the implementation of sustainable development and poverty eradication and sustainable tourism**

14. The Government of Samoa adopted the Samoa National Action Plan on Youth Employment in 2015 with technical support from the International Labour Organization (ILO) and linked to the Samoa "One United Nations" Youth Employment Programme".<sup>4</sup> The Programme advanced a youth entrepreneurship e-platform on labour market information and labour-based technology for rural infrastructure development. In Timor-Leste, ILO supported the establishment of a labour market information system, as well as vocational training and skills development and market-oriented services to microenterprises and small enterprises, among other things (Sustainable Development Goals 1, 4, 8, 9, 10 and 17).

15. The United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) has implemented, with the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States, a project for enhancing regional and national institutions to develop effective land policies rooted in principles of equity, efficiency and sustainability, including a pro-poor land rights recording system called the social tenure domain model (Sustainable Development Goals 1, 8, 9, 15 and 17).

16. In Seychelles, UNDP and the Global Environment Facility (GEF) have supported the development of the Seychelles sustainable tourism label, which encourages sustainable business practices in the tourism sector (Sustainable Development Goals 1, 11, 12 and 14).

17. The 2015 Medellín Statement on Tourism and Air Transport for Development agreed to at the joint World Tourism Organization/International Civil Aviation Organization High-Level Forum on Tourism and Air Transport for Development, held in Medellín, Colombia, on 14 September 2015, raised awareness of the importance of tourism and air transport for sustainable and resilient growth and development, particularly for countries in special situations, including small island developing States (Sustainable Development Goals 7-9 and 11).

18. The United Nations Steering Committee on Tourism for Development brings together experts in the field of tourism to create synergies and enhance coordination in delivering technical assistance to developing countries in the tourism sector. The first World Conference on Tourism for Development, held in Beijing from 18 to 21 May 2016, adopted the 2016 Beijing Declaration, which asserted the important role that the tourism industry plays in economic growth, social progress and world peace, all of which are particularly relevant for small island developing States (Sustainable Development Goals 1, 8, 9, 11 and 16).

**Climate change**

19. As reflected in the small sample of activities described below, most of the activities relating to climate change focused on adaptation rather than mitigation, which is appropriate since small island developing States contribute almost nothing to the global total of greenhouse gas emissions and yet they are suffering most acutely from the impacts of the climate crisis.

<sup>4</sup> Other partners include FAO, UNDP, UNESCO and United Nations Volunteers.

20. In April 2016, the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation and the Executive Office of the Secretary-General launched a new initiative, the Southern Climate Partnership Incubator, to foster South-South partnerships in the areas of renewable energy, climate resilience, smart cities and big data application (Sustainable Development Goals 7, 11 and 17).
21. The Small Island States Resilience Initiative, launched by the World Bank, supports small island developing States in reducing climate and disaster risks with tools to assess coastal engineering problems and develop solutions. Under the Initiative, a community of practice was created among small island developing States practitioners to share practical knowledge and experience (Sustainable Development Goals 11, 13, 14 and 17).
22. In 2015, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) created a dedicated Division on Migration, Environment and Climate Change tasked with developing activities and partnerships on the migration, environment and climate change nexus. IOM has also developed a training manual on migration, environment and climate change to support the development of national capacities to better understand and take action on the climate migration nexus (Sustainable Development Goals 11, 13 and 17). Furthermore, the "Migration, environment and climate change: evidence for policy" project, funded by the European Commission and managed by IOM and six partners, focuses on the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Mauritius and Papua New Guinea and examines the benefits and challenges of migration, displacement and relocation (Sustainable Development Goals 1, 8, 11, 13, 16 and 17).
23. Through the initiative "Enhancing South-South cooperation for capacity-building in science: towards economic resilience to natural shocks in the Pacific and Southeast Asia", the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and partners have developed a toolkit for assessing loss and damage at the community level (Sustainable Development Goals 11, 13 and 17).
24. Through its Sandwatch project, UNESCO is developing a community-based observatory of changing coastal environments in small island developing States to serve as a global archive of coastal and beach changes that is also a baseline for measuring the impacts of climate change and variability, building on the existing Sandwatch international database. Capacity-building workshops were held in 2015 to train Sandwatch practitioners from Cabo Verde, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Trinidad and Tobago and the Cook Islands to enter monitoring data from their beaches (Sustainable Development Goals 13-15 and 17).
25. Inputs showed that financial support for addressing climate change comes from a wide variety of sources. Funding for UNDP climate-related initiatives in small island developing States comes from GEF and from the Least Developed Country Fund, the Adaptation Fund and others. Canada will contribute \$2.65 billion over the next five years to help developing countries mitigate and adapt to the adverse effects of climate change. The Integrated Climate Change Adaptation Strategies programme in Grenada, as another example, is funded at €5.2 million by the International Climate Initiative of Germany. Australia will commit at least \$A1 billion to build resilience and reduce emissions over the next five years in vulnerable countries, focusing on the Pacific region.

### Sustainable energy

26. In 2015, the SIDS Lighthouses Initiative of the International Renewable Energy Agency helped 30 island partners set renewable energy targets, with 14 small island developing States aiming to have more than 50 per cent of electricity coming from renewables by 2020. Renewable readiness assessments have been developed for Antigua and Barbuda, the Bahamas, Grenada, Kiribati, Fiji, the Marshall Islands, and Vanuatu; and renewable energy road maps have been or are being developed in Barbados, Kiribati, Maldives, Mauritius, Micronesia (Federated States of) and Palau. Grid stability studies have been completed for Antigua and Barbuda, Fiji, Cuba, Samoa, Vanuatu and the Cook Islands. A framework and methodological guide for undertaking grid stability studies is currently in preparation, and the Agency also completed a road mapping baseline report for Pacific small island developing States (Sustainable Development Goals 7-9, 11, 13 and 17).

27. Renewable energy coordination centres have been established in the three small island developing States regions with funding from donors, including Austria. The establishment of the Caribbean Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency was endorsed by the Conference of Heads of Government of CARICOM in July 2015. It has started its operations in Bridgetown, working to create an enabling environment for sustainable energy investments and markets by mitigating existing barriers and acting as a regional hub for sustainable energy issues and activities. The secretariat of the Pacific Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency will be hosted by the Government of Tonga under the Pacific Community framework and will be inaugurated in August 2016 at the twenty-fifth annual conference of the Pacific Power Association. The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency, based in Cabo Verde, will act as the coordinative hub and think tank for regional sustainable energy cooperation among all African islands (Sustainable Development Goals 7 and 17).

28. Through Melanesia's Million Miracle Programme, the Pacific Community aims to bring electricity to 1 million people in Melanesia by 2020, which is equivalent to 14 per cent of the Pacific Islands people who currently do not have access to electricity. The programme has already helped the pilot countries Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu, through the installation of a 12 Volt off-grid solar photovoltaic charging station and 200 solar pico lanterns, serving 3,600 rural people (Sustainable Development Goals 1, 5, 7, 9, 10 and 17).

29. The project on building resilience to climate change in islands through the energy sector, a partnership of SIDS DOCK, the Sustainable Energy and Climate Resilience Initiative, the CARICOM Climate Change Centre and the Swedish Energy Agency, is exploring the role of renewable energy, energy efficiency and conservation in building resilience to climate change in islands (Sustainable Development Goals 7, 9, 11, 13 and 17).

### Disaster risk reduction

30. For the Caribbean region, Japan and CARICOM agreed to cooperate in enhancing resilience to disasters relating to climate change. Japan is also supporting African island countries with projects such as climate radar systems, anti-landslide

measures, coastal protection in Mauritius and coastal erosion and flood management in Seychelles (Sustainable Development Goals 1, 11, 13, 14 and 17).

31. Italy launched a new regional programme in the Caribbean small island developing States in 2015 in disaster risk management and rural development, promoting bidirectional information flows of agrometeorological data, enhancing agricultural productivity in the Caribbean and mobilizing local volunteering groups to ensure adequate circulation of information on disaster risk management (Sustainable Development Goals 2, 3, 11 and 17).

32. The Russian Federation-UNDP Trust Fund for Development has allocated \$7,500,000 for the UNDP project on disaster resilience for Pacific small island developing States (2016-2019). The Russian Federation also contributed to efforts aimed at relieving post-disaster situations, including the Vanuatu debris clearance initiative in 2015 (\$500,000) (Sustainable Development Goals 11, 13 and 17).

#### **Oceans and seas**

33. The Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission, the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency, the secretariat of the Pacific Community and Pacific island countries have received technical assistance through the \$150 million Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)-GEF project on areas beyond national jurisdiction related to tuna.

34. Through the project "Reefs generate environmental and economic resiliency for atoll ecosystems", the United States and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) are partnering with the Government of Maldives to increase the resilience of marine ecosystems through science-based decision-making and enhanced stakeholder engagement processes.

35. Portugal hosted a "blue week" in Lisbon in June 2015, during which public and private entities highlighted the importance of strengthening national capacities in small island developing States in the areas of conservation and sustainable use of oceans and marine resources (Sustainable Development Goals 12 and 14).

36. Preparations are under way for the high-level United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and Sustainably Use the Oceans, Seas and Marine Resources for Sustainable Development, to be co-hosted by Fiji and Sweden and held in Nadi, Fiji, from 5 to 9 June 2017. It will follow up on the progress made in achieving Sustainable Development Goal 14.

37. The Global Coral Reef Partnership, under UNEP leadership, promotes ecosystem-based marine management in coral reef areas to reverse coral reef bleaching and has developed a climate model that projects coral bleaching conditions (Sustainable Development Goals 12-14). Under the Global Partnership on Marine Litter, UNEP also created a Caribbean regional node in October 2015 and a resolution on marine plastic litter and microplastics was adopted at the second session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (Sustainable Development Goals 2, 6, 14, 15 and 17).

#### **Food security and nutrition**

38. The Ministerial Meeting on Food Security and Climate Adaptation in Small Island Developing States, held in Milan, Italy, from 14 to 16 October 2015, was

funded by Italy with support from the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat and FAO. At the Meeting, the Milan Declaration on Enhancing Food Security and Climate Adaptation in Small Island Developing States in the Framework of the Samoa Pathway was adopted. Following up on the Meeting, and in accordance with paragraph 61 of the Samoa Pathway, FAO is currently developing an action programme to address food and nutrition challenges facing small island developing States (Sustainable Development Goals 1-3, 5, 8, 13-15 and 17).

39. FAO supports small island developing States in implementing “blue growth” approaches emphasizing efficient resource use in fisheries and aquaculture, ecosystem services, trade, livelihoods and food systems. For instance, through the blue growth initiatives, FAO is promoting seaweed farming and value chain development, focusing especially on women in Kiribati and Saint Lucia (Sustainable Development Goals 1-3, 5, 14 and 17). FAO has also supported the Marshall Islands and Micronesia (Federated States of), Nauru and Palau in the establishment of the Micronesian Association for Sustainable Aquaculture (Sustainable Development Goals 14 and 17).

40. The International Trade Centre (ITC) has piloted a new agrifinance and enterprise development service in Fiji that provides micro, small and medium enterprises with independent financial management advice in the farming sector. Within one year, more than F\$2.7million had been disbursed, including to beneficiaries who would not normally be eligible for financing. This and proactive assistance from a team of local, internationally qualified food safety counsellors, developed under the projects, has led to a threefold increase in income on average for nearly 1,000 farmers in one of the poorest regions of Fiji (Sustainable Development Goals 1, 2 and 17).

#### **Water and sanitation**

41. A UNEP/UNDP/GEF project on integrating water, land and ecosystems management in Caribbean small island developing States is supporting policy, institutional and legislative reforms as well as the implementation of technologies advancing access to safe and reliable water supplies and improved sanitation in nine Caribbean small island developing States (Sustainable Development Goals 6, 14 and 15).

#### **Sustainable transportation**

42. The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) supports small island developing States in reduction of greenhouse gas emission from aviation. By 31 March 2016, Belize, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Fiji, Jamaica, Mauritius, Sao Tome and Principe, Singapore and Trinidad and Tobago had submitted their State action plans on activities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from international aviation. These small island developing States joined a group of 90 countries that together account for 88.05 per cent of global air traffic (Sustainable Development Goals 9, 11 and 13).

43. Through the programme Bicycles for Capitals, the secretariat of the Pacific Community and IUCN are promoting the use of bicycles to decrease vehicle congestion in capitals, reduce reliance on fossil fuel in the transport sector, improve and promote a healthy lifestyle that will contribute to the reduction of non-communicable diseases and empower youths through employment opportunities in Nauru, Niue and Tuvalu (Sustainable Development Goals 1, 3, 7, 8, 11 and 13).

### **Sustainable consumption and production**

44. Under the sustainable consumption and production initiative for small island developing States within the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production, UNEP has designed a project on transforming tourism value chains in developing countries and small island developing States to accelerate more resilient, resource efficient, low carbon development, which will support the countries in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and improving resource efficiency in key tourism sector value chains (Sustainable Development Goals 1, 7, 9 and 11-13).

### **Management of chemicals and waste, including hazardous waste**

45. The UNEP OzonAction Programme, through the Compliance Assistance Programme, supports the implementation of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer in all the small island developing States. UNEP Compliance Assistance Programme services for the small island developing States are focused on phasing down hydrochlorofluorocarbons in accordance with the Montreal Protocol and assisting the countries to sustain compliance with the phase out of ozone depleting substance. Many have exceeded their 10 per cent target for reduction for 2015 from established baselines; in the 12-country Pacific regional project, there is a reported 80 per cent reduction in hydrochlorofluorocarbons use (Sustainable Development Goals 13-15).

46. The International Partnership for Expanding Waste Management Services of Local Authorities, under the leadership of the United Nations Centre for Regional Development and UN-Habitat, aims to increase the capacity of local authorities for sustainable waste management towards a resource efficient and zero waste society to create liveable and sustainable cities (Sustainable Development Goals 6, 12 and 15).

### **Health and non-communicable diseases**

47. Many Pacific small island developing States are taking decisive action to address the scourge of non-communicable diseases. The Government of Tuvalu, for instance, with the support of UNDP, developed a trade policy in the context of the negotiations on the Pacific Agreement on Closer Economic Relations that addresses the contribution of food imports and low tariff tobacco and alcohol to the high rates of non-communicable diseases in Pacific small island developing States.<sup>5</sup>

48. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the World Health Organization (WHO) have established an emergency reserve fund project to provide immediate assistance to the Marshall Islands to support the early and rapid detection of the Zika virus. IAEA also established national technical programmes for Fiji, the Marshall Islands, Palau and Papua New Guinea in 2016, and is working on the establishment of the technical programme for Vanuatu in 2018 (Sustainable Development Goal 3).

<sup>5</sup> See "Global, regional and national incidence, prevalence and years lived with disability for 301 acute and chronic diseases and injuries in 188 countries, 1990-2013: a systematic analysis for the global burden of disease study 2013", *The Lancet*, Vol. 386, No. 9995. Available from [http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(15\)60692-4/abstract](http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(15)60692-4/abstract). This study was a first-of-its-kind analysis of data between 1990 and 2013 from 188 countries on chronic diseases and injuries. It found that the rise in global obesity rates and non-communicable diseases over the past three decades has been rapid and substantial.

### Gender equality and women's empowerment

49. In late 2015, UN-Women and the Caribbean Court of Justice signed the first-ever formal agreement to enhance the gender responsiveness of judicial practices, with particular focus on sexual and domestic violence. UN-Women also supported the development and adoption in 2015 of national strategic action plans on violence against women and girls in the Bahamas and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (Sustainable Development Goals 5, 16 and 17). UN-Women also supports over 3,000 women in 17 market vendor associations in Fiji, the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu, ensuring gender equality and participation in sustainable economic growth through its Markets for Change programme. As a result, there was an increase in the participation of women in decision-making, and 59 women leaders are now in 17 market vendor associations in the Pacific (Sustainable Development Goals 1, 5 and 8).

50. The ITC project on "Women and trade — economic empowerment of women in the Pacific", implemented in Papua New Guinea, Samoa and Vanuatu, aims to increase incomes and exports for women entrepreneurs by building women's capacity to capitalize on market opportunities in formal markets and increase their economic benefits (Sustainable Development Goals 1, 5, 8, 10 and 17).

51. The United States of America and Sweden, with other partners, support a multi-stakeholder partnership, the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex Global Development Partnership, an initiative to promote lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex equality in developing and emerging market countries, in partnership with the Dominican Republic, the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, the Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice, the Gay and Lesbian Victory Institute, the Williams Institute and Olivia Companies. It aims to increase the economic inclusion and democratic participation of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex people and to create sustainable, replicable models for social-political transformation enhancing lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex human rights (Sustainable Development Goals 5 and 16).

52. In the Pacific Islands, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), WHO and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) have supported the integration of reproductive, maternal, new-born, child and adolescent health into the Kiribati, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu national health plans and budgets (Sustainable Development Goals 3-5).

53. Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development is a 10-year \$A320 million programme funded by Australia, supporting 14 Pacific countries to meet their gender equality commitments. In the first three years of the programme, 12,897 women obtained increased access to crisis support services, 4,716 women participated in market decision-making structures and 1,716 women participated in financial literacy training, among other achievements (Sustainable Development Goals 1, 5 and 8).

### Social development

#### *Culture and sport*

54. The initiative on heritage strengthening in the Pacific aims to create a pool of experts and decision-makers to improve implementation of the World Heritage Convention by small island developing States, particularly the Pacific World

Heritage Action Plan.<sup>6</sup> Under the initiative, a series of capacity-building workshops were held on the protection of heritage sites, including from natural disasters (Sustainable Development Goal 11).

*Promoting peaceful societies and safe communities*

55. With the support of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption at its sixth session adopted resolution 6/9 on strengthening the implementation of the United Nations against corruption in small island developing States. In the resolution, States parties highlighted the importance of technical assistance for anti-corruption tailored to the needs of small island developing States, and called for a dedicated platform for sharing of best practices in anti-corruption reform specific to small island developing States (Sustainable Development Goal 16).

*Education*

56. The United States Agency for International Development/Ministry of Education Partnership for Improved Reading Outcomes provided support to 66,646 students in Jamaica through reading resource centres, instruction manuals in gender and lesson planning and augmented assessment tools.

57. With its initiative "Bridging the GAP: driving partnerships for the Global Action Programme on Education for Sustainable Development", UNESCO is bringing together stakeholders from different regions to exchange experiences in implementing education for sustainable development in national education systems. UNESCO also implemented climate change education country programmes in Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Guyana, Mauritius, the Philippines and Tuvalu and organized training sessions on education for sustainable development to 45 education planners, education infrastructure planners and curriculum developers from the Caribbean countries (Sustainable Development Goals 4, 13 and 17).

58. The partnership on improving transitions from school to work through engaging youth in policy dialogue, also led by UNESCO, is engaging youth in policy dialogue on technical and vocational education and training (Sustainable Development Goals 1, 4, 8, 10 and 17).

**Biodiversity**

59. The Global Island Partnership promotes action to build resilient and sustainable island communities and protect island biodiversity. Since its launch 10 years ago, the Partnership has engaged high-level leaders to catalyse close to \$150 million for island

<sup>6</sup> Partners include the Pacific Heritage Hub, the University of the South Pacific, the secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme, the secretariat of the Pacific Community, UNESCO, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the International Council on Monuments and Sites, the UNESCO World Heritage Institute of Training and Research for the Asia and the Pacific Region (China), the UNESCO International Training Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region (China), the UNESCO International Information and Networking Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region (Republic of Korea), the Small island Developing States Programme of the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, the International Coral Reef Initiative (Japan), the IUCN Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy Theme on Culture and Conservation and the United Nations Environment Programme.

action and assisted more than 30 countries to launch or strengthen major sustainable island commitments (Sustainable Development Goals 13-15 and 17).

60. The biological corridor initiative in the Caribbean, implemented by Cuba, the Dominican Republic and Haiti, provides a framework of cooperation for the protection and reduction of loss of biological diversity in the Caribbean (Sustainable Development Goals 13-15).

#### *Desertification, land degradation and drought*

61. Japan's support for small island developing States through the fifth Tokyo International Conference of Africa's Development includes prevention of desertification and land degradation (Sustainable Development Goals 11, 13 and 15).

62. Germany is overseeing development cooperation projects in the Dominican Republic and Haiti to prevent land degradation and to promote reforestation and the conservation of agricultural land (Sustainable Development Goals 11 and 15).

#### *Forests*

63. The reforestation efforts of the Dominican Republic have contributed to the planting of 96,943,750 trees, in accordance with the Quisqueya Verde national plan. The Dominican Republic has also been working in collaboration with Haiti in the draft South-South cooperation called "Green border" to restore the Massacre River area at the border of the two countries (Sustainable Development Goals 1, 6, 8, 15 and 17).

#### **Invasive species**

64. The Dominican Republic has developed a national strategy for conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and prepared its first national red list of threatened species. Furthermore, the country launched a programme to control exotic invasive species and a programme to protect endangered species under the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species (Sustainable Development Goal 15).

#### **Means of implementation, including partnerships**

##### *Partnerships*

65. In paragraph 101 of the Samoa Pathway the Secretary-General is requested, in consultation with Member States, to present recommendations for a partnership framework to monitor and ensure the full implementation of pledges and commitments through partnerships for small island developing States. Following a consultation process with Member States undertaken by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the General Assembly, at its seventieth session, decided to formally establish the Small Island Developing States Partnership Framework consisting of:

- (a) A steering committee, currently chaired by Maldives and Italy;
- (b) An annual global multi-stakeholder small island developing States partnership dialogue;
- (c) A partnership reporting template to be developed by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs;
- (d) National and regional partnership dialogues.

66. In 2016, the Steering Committee held two formal meetings (February and June), the Department of Economic and Social Affairs developed the partnership reporting template and process, and an informal stock-taking partnership dialogue was held during the high-level political forum on sustainable development. The first annual Global Multi-Stakeholder Small Island Developing States Partnership Dialogue will be held in September 2016 in New York, and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, in collaboration with the Steering Committee, will release a small island developing States partnership publication at the Global Partnership Dialogue.

67. Since the formal launch of the partnership reporting template in June 2016, a total of 40 small island developing States partnerships have reported. The Secretariat will continue to follow up and assist focal points in submitting reports, which will be used to inform the Steering Committee of the overall progress of small island developing States partnerships, as well for preparing future editions of the present report, the newly established small island developing States newsletter, *SIDS Times*, and other analytical work.

68. The Partnership Framework, which is led by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, is complemented by work of the Office of the High Representative specifically targeting the private sector. The Office of the High Representative has developed a small island developing States global business network, an online platform and resource hub to share best practices and lessons learned in the business sector in small island developing States. The platform is expected to forge greater collaboration among regional private sector organizations in small island developing States. In March 2016, the Office of the High Representative, in partnership with the Governments of Aruba and the Netherlands, convened a conference on public-private partnerships for small island developing States, in Aruba, where lessons learned and best practices in developing public-private partnerships were shared (Sustainable Development Goals 1, 2, 8, 14 and 17).

#### *Financing*

69. The World Bank reports that overall lending to small island developing States has increased from fiscal year 2009 to fiscal year 2015, with an increase in their International Development Association (IDA) funds and recipient executed trust funds. During those years, IDA lent approximately \$1.1 billion to small islands States.

70. The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) lent about \$1.4 billion to small island developing States, with Jamaica and Mauritius as the biggest clients. Disbursements were also made to small island developing States through other IDA/IBRD/International Finance Corporation trust funds that were not specifically established for small island developing States, but in which small island developing States are eligible recipients. For the large recipient-executed trust funds, \$124 million was disbursed for small island developing States between fiscal year 2009 and fiscal year 2015. The disbursements to small island developing States for all types of trust funds during the same period amounted to \$741.9 million.

71. The Small States Forum 2015, held in Lima, included discussions of the financing challenges and emerging issues in small island developing States in the context of sustainable development. The Forum identified the following seven

priority actions for development partners: the inclusion of vulnerability aspects in the criteria to better define the access of small island developing States to appropriate resources, including for climate finance; enhanced access to systematic development financing; a coordinated approach to facilitate debt sustainability; clear and simplified criteria for access to climate finance; capacity-building; a focus on potential growth areas, including through strategies to develop a "blue economy"; and the development of mechanisms that help small States access financial markets in a cost-effective manner (Sustainable Development Goals 1, 8, 14 and 17).

72. The Commonwealth Conference on Financing for Development in Small States, held in Barbados in March 2015, identified three priorities in financing, namely, debt sustainability, climate change financing and capacity-building, all of which were included in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. In addition, the Commonwealth established a climate finance access hub to strengthen the capacity of small island developing States to access climate finance (Sustainable Development Goals 1, 13 and 17).

73. In 2014 and 2015, the European Union signed bilateral cooperation programmes (national indicative programmes) with the Governments of 34 small island developing States from the Pacific, Caribbean, African and Asian regions for the period 2014-2020, with a total value of approximately €1,327 million. National indicative programmes with two other small island developing States will be signed in 2016, bringing the total amount of the bilateral cooperation with small island developing States to approximately €1,465 million (Sustainable Development Goal 17).

#### *Trade*

74. At the fourteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), in July 2016, UNCTAD was mandated to continue to help small island developing States address their physical and economic vulnerabilities, promote structural economic transformation and build resilience. The Conference also focused on supporting small island developing States in advancing the ocean economy, maritime transport (including port efficiency and connectivity) and e-commerce as a propeller of international trade (Sustainable Development Goals 1, 8, 9, 14 and 17).

75. The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) works with the secretariat of the Pacific Community to explore sustainable transport solutions in the Pacific and with the secretariat of the Pacific Islands Forum to finalize an assessment of broader trade integration for the Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of) and Palau through the Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement (Sustainable Development Goals 8, 9 and 17).

76. The partnership of ITC with the European Union and the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute in Belize, Dominica, the Dominican Republic, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago has successfully delivered road maps for coconut sector development. The project on coconut industry development for the Caribbean contributes to improving income and employment opportunities, food security, disaster management and the competitiveness of Caribbean producers (Sustainable Development Goals 3 and 9-11).

### *Capacity-building*

77. Most of the activities outlined in the present report are linked to enhancing the capacity of small island developing States. In addition, Singapore has advanced South-South cooperation dedicated to building the capacities of small island developing States. The technical cooperation package for small island developing States initiated by Singapore involves cooperation between small island developing States that is intended to enhance the capacities of government officials of those States in the area of sustainable development. The partnership offered courses and workshops to over 800 officials of small island developing States in the areas of climate change, disaster risk management, transport, including maritime and air transport, health, waste management and urban planning (Sustainable Development Goals 3, 11, 13, 14, 15 and 17).

78. As another example, the partnership between Singapore, the Hawaii Research Centre for Futures Studies and the UNDP Global Centre for Public Service Excellence in Singapore, has created the "foresightXchange" process. The process, which was piloted in Tonga, allows countries to share knowledge and best experiences (Sustainable Development Goals 4 and 17).

79. At the Seventh Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting, in May 2015, the leaders decided to enhance cooperation in the coming three years with a focus on the following seven areas: (a) disaster risk reduction; (b) climate change; (c) environment; (d) people-to-people exchanges; (e) sustainable development; (f) oceans, maritime issues and fisheries; and (g) trade, investment and tourism. Japan will provide assistance of more than 55 billion yen in three years and will provide assistance for human resource development and people-to-people exchanges to 4,000 people in the Pacific island countries (Sustainable Development Goals 1-4, 8, 9, 11, 13-15 and 17).

### *Technology*

80. ESCAP is strengthening the Pacific Regional Data Repository for Sustainable Energy for All. The platform, hosted by the secretariat of the Pacific Community, is an online, one-stop-shop energy portal and database management system with updated and reliable energy data, which is intended to support Pacific Governments and their development partners working in the energy sector. ESCAP also provides assistance to Pacific small island developing States in examining the viability of and expanding renewable energy sources including biogas (Sustainable Development Goals 7 and 17).

81. The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) has supported small island developing States in enhancing their access to information and communications technology facilities, which has allowed small island developing States to use the Internet to promote investment and tourism, as well as electronic financial management information systems, national health information systems and biometrics during general elections. ITU has also partnered with private mobile companies to deploy satellite mobile phones to small island developing States in case of disaster (Sustainable Development Goals 3, 9, 11 and 17).

### *Data and statistics*

82. Mexico has supported the establishment of the Caribbean Platform of Territorial Information for Disaster Prevention, which provides territorial geospatial information from national and regional sources. The Platform aims to reduce the

vulnerability of the islands of the Caribbean through risk analysis for development of public policies on infrastructure planning, housing and agriculture, among other things. The United Nations initiative on global geospatial information management for the Americas also promotes the development of spatial data infrastructure in the Caribbean region (Sustainable Development Goals 2, 9, 11, 15 and 17).

83. The Commonwealth's vulnerability and resilience framework determines the effects of external shocks on small island developing States and assesses the policies available to counteract shocks. This framework was recently revised and was used to undertake more in-depth resilience profiling exercises. To date, four countries in the Caribbean region (Barbados, Grenada, Jamaica and Saint Lucia) and four in the Pacific region (Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands and Tonga) have been profiled, with planned profiling in African small island developing States in 2016. This work is complemented by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs vulnerability resilience country profile, a country-owned analytical framework for assessment of sustainable development in small island developing States currently being implemented in Barbados, Cabo Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Jamaica, Mauritius, Saint Lucia, Sao Tome and Principe and Seychelles (Sustainable Development Goals 1, 5, 11, 14 and 17).

84. UN-Women is supporting the Regional Statistics Programme of CARICOM with the development and implementation of a set of gender equality indicators relevant to the Caribbean and small island developing States context. In line with the United Nations minimum set of gender equality indicators, and in support of monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals and the Samoa Pathway, phase 2 of the implementation of the indicators includes a proposal to collect and analyse data on unpaid care work (Sustainable Development Goals 5 and 17).

85. The World Tourism Organization is currently working on developing concrete indicators to measure the role of tourism in the economic development of small island developing States, particularly in relation to target 14.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals (Sustainable Development Goals 8 and 14).

#### *Institutional support for small island developing States*

86. As noted earlier, the Joint Inspection Unit is currently undertaking a comprehensive review of United Nations system support to small island developing States. Early findings will be issued in an addendum to the present report. Stakeholders have noted that the very fact that the Joint Inspection Unit is undertaking this exercise has encouraged improvements in the level of system support.

87. The Department of Economic and Social Affairs and Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States continue to play central roles in supporting small island developing States, and over the past year they have increased the level of coordination and cooperation. They now alternate chairing the meetings of the Inter-Agency Consultative Group on Small Island Developing States, composed of 128 members<sup>7</sup> from United Nations agencies, regional commissions and entities, and non-governmental organizations. The Department of Economic and Social Affairs has also launched the bi-monthly newsletter *SIDS Times* as a collective effort of the

<sup>7</sup> As at June 2016.

Inter-Agency Consultative Group to inform Member States and the general public of activities related to small island developing States (Sustainable Development Goal 17).

88. The Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States also convened a meeting in November 2015 on enhancing the coherence of small island developing States issues in United Nations processes following the adoption of the Samoa Pathway and in the context of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. The meeting allowed an initial mapping of the United Nations processes relating to small island developing States and addressed the need to have small island developing States focal points at the national level with direct linkages to the global processes to ensure the coherence of small island developing States issues at the global and national levels (Sustainable Development Goal 17).

89. The World Bank Group has recently established a new small States secretariat. The secretariat is responsible for the annual Small States Forum, which is held during the annual meetings of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund to discuss the implications of the emerging development architecture for small States (Sustainable Development Goal 17).

90. The United Nations system continues to be active at the country level. In the Africa, Indian Ocean, Mediterranean and South China Sea regions, UNFPA has worked with the Government of the Comoros, for instance, on the United Nations Development Assistance Framework for the period 2015-2019 in tandem with the Government's Strategy for Accelerated Growth and Sustainable Development 2015-2019. In the Caribbean and the Pacific, UNFPA also supported the efforts of Governments, in implementing household and population censuses, to collect data to inform development programmes (Sustainable Development Goals 8 and 17). UNICEF country offices contributed to the development of the next five-year multi-country sustainable development framework. The activities and priorities of the framework are based, in part, on the Samoa Pathway and enable the United Nations to work as a whole in a coordinated manner to address issues of climate change and environmental sustainability (Sustainable Development Goals 8, 13, 15 and 17).

#### **Priorities of the small island developing States for the post-2015 development agenda**

91. With the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in September 2015, small island developing States have been working to integrate the Samoa Pathway and the Sustainable Development Goals into their national sustainable development strategies and plans.

92. Jamaica has continued to implement Vision 2030 Jamaica, its sustainable development plan. Since the adoption of the Samoa Pathway, Jamaica has approved a medium-term socioeconomic policy framework for 2015-2018. The framework incorporates most of the thematic areas of the Samoa Pathway and is aligned to country strategies and programmes of international development partners (Sustainable Development Goal 17).

93. Samoa conducted a preliminary integrated assessment to create a Sustainable Development Goals profile, which involved a broad consultative process in conjunction with the midterm review of its national development strategy and the

subsequent development of a new strategy (2016-2020). Samoa has integrated the priorities of the Samoa Pathway into the new strategy for 2016-2020, which has the theme "Accelerating sustainable development and creating opportunities for all". Work is already in progress to tailor implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and targets to the Samoan context and a national task force is in place for that purpose (Sustainable Development Goal 17). As noted above, Samoa was the first small island developing State to undertake a national voluntary review at the high-level political forum on sustainable development.

94. Singapore undertakes regular policy reviews, planning for the long term, yet retaining the flexibility to review plans as needed. A multi-agency team regularly collects data on the 18 indicators identified in the Sustainable Singapore Blueprint 2015 to monitor progress towards 2030 targets for expanding green and blue spaces, increasing transport mobility, improving resource sustainability, enhancing air quality, improving drainage systems and encouraging community stewardship in sustainable development. In addition, Singapore regularly updates the Blueprint, which maps out strategies to meet the country's unique challenges. The 2015 Blueprint charts the next steps towards building "eco-smart" towns, reducing reliance on private car transportation, achieving a zero-waste society, developing a leading green economy and fostering an active and gracious community. This will all contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda (Sustainable Development Goals 1, 3, 8, 11, 12, 15 and 17).

95. The Dominican Republic has created a high-level commission on sustainable development, which aims to promote the formulation of policies, programmes and projects and the coordination of national efforts for the realization of sustainable development in the public and private sectors. The commission is responsible for implementing and creating linkages between international frameworks on sustainable development, including the 2030 Agenda, and the national planning system (Sustainable Development Goal 17).

96. At the regional level, ESCAP has supported national sustainable development strategies through integrated planning, including linking national planning priorities to budgetary processes and fiscal policies. Key initiatives include a partnership with the International Monetary Fund Pacific Financial Technical Assistance Centre to assist members in integrating sustainable development into their fiscal policies, and support for the preparation and review of national sustainable development strategies in the Pacific (Sustainable Development Goal 17).

#### **Monitoring and accountability**

97. In the Samoa Pathway, the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council and their subsidiary bodies are called upon to monitor the implementation of the Samoa Pathway. In addition, in the Samoa Pathway it is recalled that the high-level political forum on sustainable development should devote adequate time to small island developing States. The definition of "adequate time" is open to interpretation. In 2016, the high-level political forum included a dedicated meeting on small island developing States in the first five days of the session and a meeting on countries in special situations, which included small island developing States, in the ministerial segment. In addition, the Permanent Mission of Maldives to the United Nations and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs convened a two-day meeting on "Moving from vision to implementation: realizing sustainable

development in small island developing States" in the margins of the high-level political forum, with part of the meeting open to small island developing States only and part open to Member State and United Nations system partners as well.

98. The high-level political forum at its 2016 session adopted a ministerial declaration on implementation and follow-up of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which recognized the Samoa Pathway as an action plan for small island developing States and called for special attention to be granted to small island developing States.

### III. Conclusion

99. The small island developing States have a special place in the sustainable development agenda, established in the first Conference in Rio and maintained through the commemoration of Small Island Developing States Day during the sessions of the Commission for Sustainable Development. This legacy should be preserved.

100. In the current implementation landscape, it seems clear that small island developing States will benefit from an integrated and comprehensive approach that mainstreams small island developing States into efforts advancing the 2030 Agenda while maintaining and increasing dedicated attention and resources to small island developing States in the context of implementation of the Samoa Pathway. The 2030 Agenda implementation and follow-up mechanisms at the global level, including the progress report of the Secretary-General on implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, the *Global Sustainable Development Report*, the Economic and Social Council forum on financing for development, the multi-stakeholder forum on science, technology and innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals, and the high-level political forum, should include elements specific to small island developing States, with links to the Samoa Pathway and the mainstreaming of small island developing States throughout. Relevant regional forums, including those convened by the regional commissions, should follow the same integrated approach of mainstreaming small island developing States throughout programmes, while also highlighting the Samoa Pathway in dedicated sessions and preparatory reports and papers.

101. United Nations system entities should take concrete steps to prioritize Samoa Pathway implementation in their programmes, in the overarching context of the 2030 Agenda.

102. At the national level and in bilateral development assistance, efforts and support for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda should be accompanied by implementation activities linked explicitly to the Samoa Pathway, with complementarity and coherence. The synergies in implementing the 2030 Agenda and the Samoa Pathway will be harnessed by each individual organization, but the ownership and direction of small island developing States should always be the driving force.